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REMARKS

The Office Action of December 20, 2006 was received and carefully reviewed. The Examiner is thanked for his review and consideration of this application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below. Claims 1-5 are pending in the instant application, with claims 1, 3 and 5 amended, of which claims 1 and 5 are independent. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for a One-Month Extension of Time* which extends the shortened statutory period of response to April 20, 2007. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

In the present Office Action, claims 2-5 were objected to for depending upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Iwata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,514,826 -- hereafter Iwata) in view of Ibaraki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,476 -- hereafter Ibaraki).

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Iwata and Ibaraki, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest all of the features recited in the pending claims. For example, amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, the features of "at least one of the signal processor modules stores within predetermined temporal periods in the memory, unprocessed input data as input through the input port and processed data obtained by reading out and processing unprocessed input data stored in the memory a predetermined number of cycles before and outputs within the predetermined temporal periods through the output port, unprocessed data and processed data stored in the memory the predetermined number of cycles before." Support for the term "predetermined temporal period" can be found at paragraph [0082] of Applicants' published specification wherein it is stated that "... data is stored in the memory 412 of each DSP module 410 for a predetermined time ..." (i.e., page 18, lines 21-23 of Applicants' specification as originally filed).

Applicants further note that according to the Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd Ed., the term "temporal" is defined as lasting or existing only for a time; passing, temporary. In

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addition, the Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd Ed., states that the term "period" is defined as a length of time, especially one marked by the occurrence of a phenomenon. Applicants contend that based on these accepted definitions and the recitation disclosed in Applicants' specification of "stored in the memory 412 of each DSP module 410 for a predetermined time" support is provided for the phrase "predetermined temporal periods" as now recited in claim 1. Applicants submit that Iwata and Ibaraki are deficient with respect to these noted features. Thus, it cannot be said that Iwata and Ibaraki, taken alone or in combination, teach the features of at least one of the signal processor modules stores within predetermined temporal periods in the memory, unprocessed input data as input through the input port and processed data obtained by reading out and processing unprocessed input data stored in the memory a predetermined number of cycles before and outputs within the predetermined temporal periods through the output port, unprocessed data and processed data stored in the memory the predetermined number of cycles before, as presently claimed.

With respect to independent claim 5, Applicants have rewritten allowable claim 5 into independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims as stated above.

The dependent claims are allowable over the applied references, taken alone or in combination, on their on merits and for at least the reasons as argued above with respect to their independent claim.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1 and 3-5 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue. If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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